

MANITOBA CROPS.

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THE CROP OF 1876.

It was our intention to have presented full reports of the crop prospects through out the Province about the middle of August, but many causes have contributed to prevent our doing so until after the harvest, and they may now be discussed in the full light of the process of threshing and obtaining the first exact returns, which we hope our friends will be good enough to furnish for publication. In the meantime we wish to express our thanks to the various gentlemen who kindly took so much pains, often at great loss of time, in collecting the necessary data for this summary.

It will be seen by these returns, gathered simultaneously in thirty-four different settlements by intelligent farmers, who in some cases spent days in inspection before summing up their conclusions, that the famous average of Manitoba's growth has been somewhat lessened by various causes, some local and some general, but mostly peculiar to this year. The unusually heavy rains of the late season have done their share, especially on low lands selected last year—an average season; whereas this has been the wettest known since 1869. Another cause by which the average has suffered materially is the sowing on a first ploughing, as done often by new settlers rather than await the slow process of rotting the sod; the half crop grown is, however, better than none at all, and will go far towards provisioning those settlers' families for the winter. The loss by the depredations of black birds in some neighborhoods suggests an enquiry into a means for their destruction. Another cause strongly felt in some places is from old and deteriorated seed, it being remarked that where new seed was used the difference was easily perceptible.

These returns are interesting also, as showing the remarkable evenness of the productive quality of the land and its capacity for producing what would be considered most surprising returns elsewhere under such special disadvantages as ruled this season. We have great cause to thank the Almighty Giver of every good that just now when our commercial interests are so heavily pressed by isolation that another year's loss of crops might have blotted our future for the next decade, and our specially burdensome ills of reserved lands and unsettled titles combine to check immigration and prevent development, our land should be so signally blessed by abundant crops, while throughout the continent the contrary result has been so general. Just now when it seems so distinctly marked that the middle and eastern States and Ontario are becoming less reliable for agriculture, the endless virgin lands of our North-West are becoming known as specially productive wheat fields, and may be offered to their people for settlement on condition, only, of building railroads to reach them by.

AVERAGE PRODUCT PER ACRE.

SETTLEMENTS ON RED RIVER.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Peas.	Potatoes.	Turnips.
Emerson,	25	40	50	25	200	
Whitehaven,						
(Plum Creek)	35	40	50	35	200	400
Scratching						
River,	25	40	40	25	200	
Union Point,	30	50		25		400
St. Vital &						
St. Norbert,	35	45	60	30	100	
Kildonan,	30	45	50	30	200	
S. St. Andrew's,	30	40	45	20	250	
N. St. Andrew's,	30	30	28	32		
St. Clement's,	35	50	55	40	300	
St. Peter's,	35	50	55	40	300	

SETTLEMENTS ON THE ASSINIBOINE RIVER.

St. James,	30	45	50	30	250	
St. Charles,	30	40	50	30	250	
Headingley,	30	45	60	20	150	100
S. F. Xavier,	36	35	50	40		500
Basie St Paul,	40	50	65	40	200	
Poplar Point,	35	40	55	22	300	
High Bluff,	35	40	55	22	200	
Portage la						
Prairie,	30	40	40	30	250	

SETTLEMENTS ON WHITE MUD RIVER.

Tologon,	35	45	50	35	400	1000
Woodside,	35	40	60	30	400	1000
Westbourne,	36	40	60	40	150	
Palestine,	35		55	25	200	

OUTLYING PRAIRIE SETTLEMENTS EAST OF RED RIVER.

Springfield,	28	30	45	25	300	700
Prairie Grove,	35	50	50	40	350	
Sunnyside &						
Cook's Creek,	35	40	50		200	
Rosseau,	30	40	60	30	300	

OUTLYING PRAIRIE SETTLEMENTS NORTH OF ASSINIBOINE RIVER.

Rockwood,						
Victoria &						
Grassmere,	25	55	40	20	250	500
Greenwood,	30	40	50	30	350	
Tp. 15, R. 1 E.,	45					
Woodlands &						
Meadow Lea,	30	35	50	20	200	
Ossowa,	20	25	25		140	

OUTLYING PRAIRIE SETTLEMENTS SOUTH OF ASSINIBOINE RIVER.

Pembina Mt.	35		50	20	150	
Boyne River,	38	60	60	30	300	

REMARKS.

EMERSON.—Later growth here much retarded by heavy rains, and a local hailstorm which battered grain down; about $\frac{1}{3}$ of whole area sown on the fresh soil, and produced 18 to 20 bus. per acre.

WHITEHAVEN.—Being a young settlement and crops sown on new ploughed land this average is very satisfactory.

SCRATCHING RIVER.—Crops mostly on new ploughed land, its average however is about 15 to 18 per acre.

KILDONAN.—Loss of average here owing to rust and mildew; rains very heavy in latter part of season.

S. ST. ANDREW'S.—Wheat light, and all crops shrunken from effect of unusually heavy rains in August.

N. ST. ANDREW'S.—Average below ordinary season. Harvest very wet and trying. Roots will still increase in product.

ST. CLEMENT'S & ST. PETER'S.—Wheat and barley suffered from wet season still average will likely be higher than given.

ST. JAMES.—Great loss her from lodging, samples inferior and somewhat shrunken by extreme wet weather.

HEADINGLEY.—Barley and wheat will be poor color, but all grain heavy. Root crops

will yet be good. Peas a comparatively light crop; very wet season.

POPULAR POINT.—Grain did not fill as well as usual. The wettest season known since '59; crops too luxuriant in stalk, but grain heavy.

HIGH BLUFF.—All crops suffered in quantity and color from heavy and continued rains.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.—Average higher than given; season wet; roots much damaged.

WOODSIDE.—Loss here from blackbirds.

PALESTINE.—Loss of average here by local causes and inferiority of seed.

TOTOCON.—All grain, and oats particularly, suffered from blackbirds and lodging by heavy rains.

SPRINGFIELD.—Some injury here by rust from wet harvest, grain very much delayed in ripening.

PRAIRIE GROVE.—Damage by blackbirds and rains.

SUNNYSIDE AND COOK'S CREEK.—Average lessened here by drowning in low lands and wet harvest. Root crop light.

ROCKWOOD, GRASSMERE & VICTORIA.—Crops here not up to usual average; considerable grain lodged.

WOODLANDS & MEADOW LEA.—Average five bushels less than would have been in average season. Seed inferior.

OSSOWA.—Most of area sown here newly broken ground, average lessened thereby.

PEMBINA MOUNTAIN.—Less returns on account of large area sown on first ploughing but even then good half crops returned.

BOYNE RIVER.—Blackbirds destroyed one-tenth of the crop. Settlers complain of unoccupied homesteads.

It may safely be assumed that but for the special causes mentioned, such as heavy rains, old seed and sowing on new land the returns of the whole Province would have been one-sixth better. We have collected the averages in divisions of areas separated by the great rivers which have respectively formed the nucleus of settlement and of whose rich valleys this city is the natural marketing centre, as follows:

AVERAGE PRODUCT PER ACRE.

SETTLEMENTS ON RED RIVER.—Wheat 32 bushels, barley 42, oats 44½, peas 27½, potatoes 182, turnips 400.

SETTLEMENTS ON THE ASSINIBOINE RIVER.—Wheat 33½ bushels, barley 40½, oats 53½, peas 29½, potatoes 150, turnips 750.

SETTLEMENTS ON WHITE MUD RIVER.—Wheat 35 bushels, barley 40, oats 60, peas 31½, potatoes 287½, turnips 1,000.

SETTLEMENTS EAST OF RED RIVER.—Wheat 29½, barley 40, oats 51½, peas 32, potatoes 387, turnips 700.

SETTLEMENTS NORTH OF ASSINIBOINE.—Wheat 30, barley 39, oats 41, peas 23½, potatoes 235, turnips 700.

SETTLEMENTS SOUTH OF ASSINIBOINE.—Wheat 36½ bushels, barley 60, oats 55, peas 25, potatoes 225, turnips 600.

THE TOTAL AVERAGE PRODUCTION throughout the whole Province of Manitoba this year, will therefore be found to be as nearly as may be: Wheat 32½ bushels, barley 42½, oats 51, peas 32, potatoes 229, turnips 662½.

This is a much less total than was expected in the early part of the season, still greater than was latterly looked for it being feared that the continual rains during the usual

term of harvest would have utterly destroyed the crops in many sections.

The figures cited above, together with others in our possession, would indicate

THE TOTAL YIELDS OF THE PROVINCE.

to be about: Wheat, 480,000 bushels; barley, 173,000; oats, 380,000; peas 45,000; other grains, 5,000; potatoes, 460,000; turnips and other roots, 700,000.

It has been feared by some that the effect of the bountiful yield will be the reduction of prices below a paying point. However, while prices are sure to range much lower than they have for many years past, we think that next spring, when the immigration which is sure to pour in begins, will demonstrate that those who have sold their wheat at much below one dollar a bushel are considerably out. Estimates, based upon importation statistics, place the Provincial and North-West Territorial consumption of flour for the next year at ninety thousand barrels, an equivalent of 360,000 bushels of wheat. This would leave only 120,000 bushels for seed and holding over—plainly insufficient. However, we are disposed to believe that the flour consumption has been slightly overestimated; but not so much so, as to leave any considerable surplus of wheat after the next twelve months' requirements are supplied. The flour manufacturing capacity of the Province has been increased by twenty run of stone.

Of the coarse grains the supply will be greater in proportion to the demand, and prices thereof may be expected to range low. But even these we confidently expect to see fairly remunerative, as a large quantity will be consumed in fattening meat for our own market which hitherto has been supplied, almost entirely, by importation, not for the want of stock so much as the want of grain to bring the same to fair slaughtering condition.

Thus, taking everything into account, it is really doubtful, had we shipping facilities, whether they would be called into requisition for grain exportation even with this year's production on our hands.

Immigration being bound to keep pace with our increasing grain growing, it may be reasonably deduced that long before we have a surplus for exportation eastward we shall be in possession of competing routes of transportation in the Canadian Pacific Railway to Thunder Bay, and the American railway system. Neither is it going too far in the hopeful direction to conjecture that when we have a surplus to export an abundant and high priced market will be available in the wants of more southern provinces and states for new and hardier seed. A very high authority on the subject has predicted that for the first ten years of our surplus production it will be exported for seed purposes, and at the expiration of that time the North-West will be known all over the continent as its principal granary for the supply of breadstuffs.

In view of the general feeling of joy and congratulation we think it would be well to proclaim a day of thanksgiving and prayer throughout the Province for the grand results of an abundant harvest.

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